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BOOK REVIEWS

Certain Antiquities of the Florida West-Coast. By CLARENCE B. MOORE. Reprinted from the Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Volume xi. Philadelphia: 1900. 43 pages; maps, plans, plates, and text figures.

This latest work of Mr Moore has been issued with admirable promptness, a few months only having elapsed since the close of the field work. It is his seventh paper relating to the Florida region, the series constituting one of the most thorough and satisfactory archeological studies yet made in any part of America.

The recent explorations by Mr F. H. Cushing have aroused deep interest in the study of the west coast of Florida, and especially of the key remains; and the work of Mr Moore, covering a wider field, serves to assist in defining the relationships and limitations of the extraordinary culture phenomena of Key Marco.

The exploration extended from Clearwater harbor on the north to Chatham river on the south, and included the Tampa district, parts of the Alafia, Little Manatee and Manatee rivers, Sarasota bay, Pine Island sound, part of Caloosahatchee river, Estero bay, Key Marco and others of the Ten Thousand islands, and Chatham river. Two maps and several plans of the works assist in following the text.

Examinations in Tampa bay and its tributaries yielded some features of special interest. At many points are shell-midden deposits and mounds, ridges, causeways, graded ways, and canals, built of shell or sand. Many of the mounds are domiciliary, while others are undoubtedly mortuary. One of the latter, situated on Little Manatee river, some 25 miles south of Tampa, proved to be of unusual interest. It is "irregularly circular and rather rugged as to its surface, has a base diameter of about 58 feet, a height of 6 feet. From the southwest side of the mound an aboriginal canal, almost straight, runs a distance of 238 feet to the water. Leaving the mound the canal is 64 feet across, converging to a width of 36 feet at its union with the water. . . .

"The mound was of pure white sand, unstratified. At the very outset burials were encountered. In all, 112 burials were met with, classing as such human remains in which the cranium was present and omitting a limited number of bones found loose in the mound. These

burials were in a much greater state of flexion than we have usually seen in our mound work. The prevailing form of interment was a squatting position, the feet on a level with the pelvis, the legs against the thighs and these drawn up against the body. The upper arms were against the sides with the forearms sometimes raised parallel to the upper arms and sometimes on the chest, reaching to the neck. The head was bent over and forced down between the thighs, sometimes to the pelvis. Certain skeletons lay on the side with the same general arrangement of the extremities and the skull pressed over against the knees. So compact were these bundles of bones, which were not the bunched burial so often met with, where separate bones, not in order, are loosely piled in a heap, that we believe the skeletons in this mound, perhaps denuded of flesh, but held together by ligaments, were enveloped in wrapping of some sort and tightly bound with cord or sinew. One of these bundles of the average size was 23 inches long and about 26 inches in circumference."

Extensive remains were encountered a few miles below the mouth of Little Manatee river, where an island, called Indian Hill, about eight acres in extent, is almost covered with deposits of shell and irregular, massive, mound-like structures. Some of the latter reach the elevation of 33 feet, and are believed to be the loftiest works in the state. Human remains were found in one of the mounds.

The remains at Demorey key, Lee county, were described in some detail by Mr Cushing in a recent paper, and the examinations made by Mr Moore have added some points of interest. It was found that the conch-shell walls are in part or in whole of comparatively recent construction, since articles of iron, glass, and glazed ware were found beneath them. Mounds and other structures are believed to have undergone considerable modification at the hands of white settlers.

Mr Moore's work among the Ten Thousand islands is regarded by him as disappointing, especially with respect to finds of artifacts; but considerable valuable data have been added to our knowledge of the remains and their distribution. The intricate archipelago has never been mapped nor explored, and Mr Moore is led to believe that an insignificant portion of these islands has been occupied by the key-dwellers. Examinations were made on Little Marco island and on Marco island. It was on the latter that Mr Cushing made his marvelous finds of artifacts, excavated from the muck of ancient courts and canals. Mr Moore failed to obtain good results, digging in corresponding situations, and concludes that some special conditions must have conspired to bury and preserve the remains found by Mr Cushing.

The trip down the keys from Marco developed little of interest save

occasional shell deposits, until Chokoloskee key, Monroe county, was reached. This is a roundish island about half a mile in diameter, and is almost entirely covered with great shell deposits, with lofty works, graded ways, canals, and the like. One of the shell mounds is 27 feet in height. Numerous specimens of shell implements, as well as articles of stone and bone, were obtained from the island.

The author adds a section describing the interesting shell implements of southwest Florida, accompanied with numerous illustrations.

The enterprising character of the west-coast peoples is fully indicated by the prevalence of shell deposits and the extent and variety of monumental remains. The latter include mounds of various shapes—flat, truncated, and conical—graded ways, long ridges, embankments and breakwaters, and sunken courts and canals. With reference to the character of the dwellings and other buildings, but little is known beyond the facts ascertained by Mr Cushing on Key Marco, but it is probable that the pile-dwelling was of frequent occurrence among the keys. The artifacts include pottery, mostly in fragments and of varieties common in Florida. There are the well-made vessels with incised decoration most common on the western side of the peninsula, cruder pottery showing characteristics of the west, and occasional specimens of the stamped ware—the prevailing variety in the St John region. Shell utensils, implements, and ornaments cover the usual range; and stone implements, though comparatively rare, are mainly of usual types and indicate skill in all the processes of stone working. The specimens collected affiliate with the art of the known tribes of the southern states and appear to convey no suggestion of close relationship with the peoples of the West Indies, Yucatan, or South America.

W. H. HOLMES.

Das Blut im Glauben und Aberglauben der Menschheit. Mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der "Volksmedizin" und des "jüdischen Blutritus."
Von HERMANN L. STRACK. München : C. H. Beck'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1900. 12°, xii, 208 pp.

This revised edition of an earlier work by the same author is a careful and comprehensive review of the uncanny superstitions in connection with the use of human blood and various portions of the human corpse in European folk-medicine and occult ritual. Special attention is given to the reputation of the old story that the Jews, in their Paschal ceremony, make use of the blood of a Christian child sacrificed for that purpose. Although it has repeatedly been proven that this accusation is an ignorant slander, yet within a year it has been revived in Bohemia, with tragic